



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION 6**

**1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733**

**October 12, 2017**

**Office of the Regional Administrator**

The Honorable Gene Green  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

Thank you for your letter of September 26, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expressing concerns about possible toxic spills from the U.S. Oil Recovery Superfund Site during Hurricane Harvey. Since Texas falls within the jurisdiction of Region 6, your letter was forwarded to me for reply. As outlined below and in the enclosures, the EPA does not believe there is evidence of a release of toxic materials from this site during Hurricane Harvey.

The site is located in Pasadena, Texas, and consists of two properties: a former municipal wastewater treatment facility at 200 North Richey Street; and a former waste oil recycling facility at 400 North Richey Street. The EPA directed the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) to secure the site prior to the August 25 landfall of Hurricane Harvey. On August 29, the PRPs reported that the former wastewater treatment plant was flooded due to Hurricane Harvey.

On September 4, the EPA's staff conducted an onsite inspection to assess conditions at the site and directed the PRPs to collect samples to determine if there were releases of toxic materials. On September 9, the PRPs reported there was a spill of an unknown quantity of stormwater on September 6, and a 200 gallon discharge of stormwater on September 7 from the former wastewater treatment facility. On September 11, the EPA received all analytical results showing no evidence of a toxic release.

On September 13, in response to inquiries about a possible oil spill, the EPA conducted an inspection of nearby Vince Bayou and found no evidence of a discharge of toxic material from the site. On September 16, site conditions were stabilized and it transitioned back to normal operations.

More details and specific answers to your questions are provided in the enclosures to this letter. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Mr. Austin Vela, Congressional Liaison, at (214) 665-9792.

Sincerely,

Samuel Coleman, P.E.  
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosures

1. EPA response to questions
2. EPA HazEval Maps of orphan drums and containers
3. Incident Management Team inventory of contents of 571 orphan drums and containers